30th Annual USOE MLK Contest

8th Grade Level Essay Winner Kate Baadsgaard – Spanish Fork Jr. High School Essay title "MLK Essay"

Friends vs. Bullies

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In times past this quote changed lives and even history. Even today we can use this quote in everyday life among children, especially teens, and in some cases adults. In our society, bullying takes a big toll on many lives. Cyber, physical and emotional bullying can wreck your day and ruin your life. This marvelous quote has hidden meanings that only few understand. The words that people say can have a huge effect on lives, decisions and choices, even the littlest things, can make a big difference. The things that we lack to say can hurt even worse. Not only can our friends be there to defend us in times of need and desperation but, they can also be there to be our comfort, give us peace of mind, help ease the pain, and give us the luxury of friendship. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has amplified this neighborly act immensely and in a way that changed the history of the world and society forever.

This outstanding quote not only changed the lives of the people in the 1900's but, today it has an impact that will stick around forever. This speech changed the universe for years, and years to come. It's an inspiration that, in this society, we need urgently. This effect seems to target teenagers and adolescent troublemakers.

In the schools and Jr. Highs and high schools all around the world there is no break for the picked on. Aggressors and bullies will not rest for those of lesser fortune. To those that know and have had hands on experiences with oppressors and agitators can tell you what they know and how it feels. They know how it feels to scream for help but, no one is listening, how it feels to try your hardest just to live just another day without the taunts and the judgment and the teases.

The things that we say have a gigantic influence on who we become but, the things that we don't say can take and even larger tax on our emotional feelings. Not only can our acquaintances and peers stand up for us when needed but, they can also be there to comfort us. That's when it can hurt the worst, when our so called "friends" desert us. That's when the true friends come out and show themselves. You may not remember what someone's name is or what they look like but, you will never forget how they made you feel.

Dr. Martin Luther King has summed up the story of American struggles throughout the beginning of time in 17 simple words. Dr. King brought us to where we are now along with other wonderful men and women who took a stand. We need to be positive that these words do not fade into nothingness. People all around the world, young and old, black and white, bullied or not, should all know who and what got this country to where we are today.